AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.- 19. (Canceled)

20. (Withdrawn) A process for producing the preparation of claim 49, comprising obtaining a prothrombin from plasma or a plasma fraction, activating the prothrombin to thrombin, and purifying the thrombin by hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

21. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the prothrombin is subjected to inactivation or reduction of viruses during its production.

22. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the thrombin is subjected to inactivation or reduction of viruses before or after hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

23. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, additionally comprising performing cation exchange chromatography before or after the hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

24. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the preparation is adjusted to a pH of from 5.0 to 8.0.

25.-26. (Canceled)

27. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is benzamidine or p-aminobenzamidine.

28. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein a gel with coupled hydrophobic radicals is employed as absorbent for the hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

29. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 28, wherein the hydrophobic radicals.

30. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, additionally comprising filtering the preparation through a membrane with a suitable pore size to remove viruses.

31.-32. (Canceled)

33. (Withdrawn) A method of using the preparation of claim 49, wherein the preparation is administered to a patient in need thereof as a hemostatic, a constituent of a hemostatic or as a constituent of tissue glue.

34.-48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) A stable thrombin preparation comprising thrombin and a noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity as stabilizer, and further comprising at least one soluble calcium salt, sodium chloride as stabilizer, at least one buffer substance, and at least one of

a sugar,

a sugar alcohol,

an amino acid,

a salt of a mono- or polycarboxylic acid, or

a salt of a mono- or polyhydroxycarboxylic acid,

wherein, after at least 12 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, the thrombin activity of the preparation, measured by a coagulation test with a fibrinogen substrate, is more than 70% of its initial level prior to the storage.

50. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 12 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is more than 80% of its initial level prior to the storage.

51. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 12 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is more than 90% of its initial level prior to the storage.

52. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 24 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is more than 70% of its initial level prior to the storage.

53. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 24 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is more than 80% of its initial level prior to the storage.

54. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 24 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is more than 90% of its initial level prior to the storage.

55. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, wherein the noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is benzamidine.

56. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, wherein the noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is p-aminobenzamidine.

57. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, wherein the pH of the preparation is from 5.0 to 8.0.

58. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, comprising a sugar alcohol at a maximum concentration of 2% (w/v).

59. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, wherein the at least one of a sugar, a sugar alcohol, an amino acid, a salt of a mono- or polycarboxylic acid, or a salt of a mono- or polyhydroxycarboxylic acid, does not increase the viscosity of the preparation.

60. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, wherein the preparation comprises a hemostatic or a constituent of a hemostatic.

61. (Previously Presented) The preparation of claim 49, wherein the preparation comprises a constituent of a tissue glue.